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LATEST NEWS CONCERNING
the
ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN
SUFFERERS

April 5, 1916

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The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief

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More complete information may be had from Walter H. Mallory, Field Secretary, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Committee urges immediate attention to this pressing need, and asks that all contributions be sent to Mr. Charles R. Crane, Treasurer, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

BEWARE OF SOLICITORS

Since the issue of our last bulletin on the twenty-first of February the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has received reports from its agents showing that the total number of refugees who are in want exceeds the previous estimates. Certain obstacles to relief work which embarrassed the operations of the Committees in given districts have been removed and it is now possible to cable credit with the certainty that the relief will reach not merely the great centers but also many outlying districts recently inaccessible.

I. Relief in the Russian Caucasus

The chief centers for relief in the Russian Caucasus are Tiflis, Erivan and Etchmiadzin. The staff of workers has been strengthened by the sending of Floyd O. Smith M. D. and William Cressy, M. D. to Tiflis under the joint auspices of the American Red Cross and our Committee. They sailed from New York early in March and the Committee is expecting daily to have news of their arrival on the field. Prior to their arrival, the conduct of the work has centered in a commission with headquarters in Tiflis. Its members are Dr. Samuel G. Wilson, Mr. F. Willoughby Smith, American Consul at Tiflis, Rev. Richard Hill, Rev. Frederick W. Macallum and Mr. George F. Gracey, all of whom have appointments under the American Red Cross. All these men speak two or three languages, including Turkish, Armenian and French, and are thoroughly competent to carry on the work of distribution. They will, of course, afford Doctors Smith and Cressy every possible facility for their work of medical relief.

The following extracts give vivid pictures of the work of the Committee in the Caucasus.

Rev. S. G. Wilson, head of the Commission, writes from Erivan, in Transcaucasia, Dec. 29, 1915:

"We have just returned from a tour of some of the Armenian villages where refugees are living, and are ready to report on their condition from personal observation. In this district or governorship of Erivan there are 105,000 Armenian refugees besides Nestorians and Yezidees. Of these 18,000 are in the town of Erivan; of these many are scattered in the homes of the people and others gathered in large buildings, orphanages, etc. We visited the barracks where 420 were living. Room after room was full; in some rooms 40, in some half the number. The lucky ones were those that had a plank platform

or board floor on which to sleep and sit. Many of them were in the kitchen and storerooms on the bare ground. Most of them had insufficient bedding and many of them scarcely any. Some were lying four under one coverlet, head to feet. One man told us how he sat and shivered in the night, till his teeth chattered. Another man stayed in bed in day time because he had no clothes. One room contained, among others, two Protestant families from Van; the fathers had both died lately of disease, the mother of one group was lying sick. Seven or eight was the number of each household lying in rags on hay and with scarcely enough cover for two people. The atmosphere of the rooms was foul in the extreme. These people were from the city of Van and had lived comfortably.

The condition in the villages is even worse. At Somaghar, 15 miles from here, we were taken about by the elder of the Protestant Church. Sad indeed were the sights that we saw. Some, too, indeed were comforting in a measure. This good man had taken into his household, already of sufficient size, two women refugees, who were clothed cleanly and neatly and fed as his own. Many of the Armenian villagers have taken in and cared for the destitute refugees. Others have given them the use of their spare rooms, bake houses, stables and barns. Fortunate are those who are in the bakehouses, for the heat in bread making is a free gift to them, albeit—mixed with smoke. Fortunate too, those who have the stables, for they have steam-heat from the oxen and buffaloes; for those in the other storerooms and outhouses have no stores or fires. These uplands of Armenia have a severe winter. The ground is now covered with snow. Ararat, with its two grand peaks is always in sight, and but a few miles away. Cold winds from the Trans-Caucasus range blow over the plain. The sight of these multitudes with neither clothing for day nor bedding for night is a great draft on our

sympathies, which is intensified by their pitiful stories. We enter one bake house. One young man appeared among 15 women and children. They had been a prosperous patriarchal family of 36 persons—father—three sons and their wives and children. Of them 21 were killed including all the men except this young fellow who threw himself into the arms of a Kurd and was saved in some freak of mercy. This was a Protestant family from a village called I'erkhus. We saw families of 13 and 16, mothers, daughters, brides, children with no man. We asked "where are your men?" "They were all killed," or "Of 70 men but one escaped," or "We were 100 men in the village, but 20 escaped." "There were 450 households in our village, but 20 or 30 men escaped," "Were the women taken away?" "Yes, our pretty girls were carried off." "How many?" "Four of mine." "We too were stripped naked." As to the rest of their sufferings and outrage they were silent.

We addressed the one surviving man and asked, "How are you here?" He replied, "I was off as a soldier in the Turkish army. I heard of the massacres. By byways in the mountains I returned to find our village destroyed, I escaped to Russia and found them." Another woman from Arjesh near Van said "All our men were collected from the bazaars, taken before the Government. After the dark, we heard the shots which killed them. We fled in the night."

In the village of Kurpaloo, with 300 houses there are 900 refugees. Of these 300 are from the first exodus January to April, 1915, and 600 of the second in July-August. The first were able to bring with them some of their property. Many of the men came safely. The second was the terrible flight, after the massacres. Of these 40,000 are said to have died of disease after reaching Russian territory. The condition of the later refugees is most heart-rending. Let me give a few glances at conditions in Kurpaloo. A woman surrounded by seven or eight persons, with scarcely a bed for all and rags as their clothes said "I escaped by throwing myself in the mud, a dead child lying over my head. There were 50 in our household. Nine women and boys were taken captive by the Kurds." In the stable the oxen and buffaloes were crowding up close. At the side a flock of sheep was huddled. The air was stifling. Three families of 18 persons were crowded in one end in a space so small that it seemed impossible for them to lie down. Some had improvised a couch in the manger. A hammock for a baby was stretched above on two posts. Of the 18 a blind youth was the only man. In a bake-

house were 27 persons, one youth, one very old man. Six men of their household had been taken as soldiers, the rest were massacred. Of the 600 refugees of the second exodus who are in this village, about 30 are men. Some are escaped soldiers who were in the army when the atrocities occurred. One had dragged himself out from under a mass of dead bodies.

Nor did all the women escape death. Women were wantonly slain; those with child ripped up with swords; the breasts of others cut off. Some threw themselves and children into the streams and from the precipices to escape outrage. One woman lately arrived who was captured some years ago by a Kurd. She had escaped now, after killing the Kurd, and brought her two children with her.

Muanjik—Also many refugees. As in all others great lack of clothing and specially of bedding. 22 persons in one room, two of them men. Mostly sleeping on the ground with bedding enough for one-fifth their number. In another room 10 persons, no men, 15 of this connection killed, girls carried away, one boy saved by hiding under skirt of mother; clothes in tatters, bedding lacking.

Veri Ailauloo. This village of 70 houses is sheltering 370 refugees, in wretched condition. Three families of 22 persons are in one bake-house, one side of which is filled with dried manure. Their village in Turkey had 70 men, one escaped alive; 4 girls and 3 brides carried off. Another hut contains four women and some children, the remnant of a family of 24. All the men of their village were killed. They are living in a wretched condition. Bread and water is the chief food of these refugees—for months past.

We are doing what we can to relieve this distress, supplementing the work of local and government committees. Ready made clothing in any large quantity is not to be found, nor blankets. Comforters we have purchased in small quantities. We are organizing some sewing circles in Tiflis where we succeeded in buying about 7,000 garments. They are hard to find, and transport is difficult when they are ready as the army has the first right to the cars.

I have not time to tell you of our reception by the Grand Duke Nicolas and his good wishes for the success and progress of our relief work, nor of our visit to the Catholics at Etchmiadzin and his warm thanks for the sympathy and help of the American people for his people in their distress. We were entertained by him over night. Governors, Bishops, and Press have all bid us God-speed.

Warm clothing and bedding will save many from sickness and death. The

pitiable condition of these wretched people should appeal strongly to our American people in their comfortable homes and in the enjoyment of ten thousand blessings.

The Council of the Supreme Patriarch and Katholikos of all Armenians writes to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief from Etchmiadzin, the Armenian Canterbury, on January 1, 1916 (new style). From this letter, published in translation in the "New Armenia," March 1, 1916, we quote the following passages:

"At their second retirement from Van in July, the Armenian residents were bereft of all their possessions—houses, agricultural implements, and domestic animals—at the same time having their homes burned up. In the literal sense of the word 100,000 to 120,000 Armenians arrived at Etchmiadzin stripped even of their outer garments. 35,000 to 40,000 of them were accommodated in Etchmiadzin. Through the Central Relief Committee funds were secured by which orphanages, medical dispensaries, and hospitals were erected. The need was exceedingly great. Day by day new groups of refugees kept arriving in a more serious and heartbreaking condition. Similarly at several other places we erected similar institutions by the help of other auxiliary relief bodies. Because the flight occurred under unexpected conditions the numbers of the sick and exhausted were exceedingly great, and in spite of all our manifold efforts the Relief Committee could not meet the very urgent demand of the time, and as a result of this the number of the dead was very large because of the contagious diseases raging among the refugees in Etchmiadzin and the country round about. In Etchmiadzin alone 11,000 people died, and in the country round about it about 40,000 people died. Through the means that the local committee used the disease was gradually checked. The Patriarch of all Armenians put all the buildings at the disposal of this committee to be used as lodgings and hospitals. He even granted his own large house of more than fifty rooms to serve as a hospital. From 5,000 to 6,000 orphans and exhausted and worn-out people found refuge in the orphanages. They were like skeletons in human form. Through our care today they are safe and sound in Etchmiadzin, Dipghis, Baku, Erivan, Gharakilisa, and Ashdarak. We hope that they are destined to be the nucleus of the future Armenian nation.

"Among these generous gifts the American contribution was greatly appreciated; though they were a foreign nation, they were bound close to us by

Christian love and compassion. In this matter it is not the material contribution merely that we Armenians appreciate, but more than that it is the humane and sympathizing spirit of Americans. Thus Americans have been the friends of humanity to whom many nations in their critical and destitute hours have stretched their hands for relief and needed aid.

"Our Central Relief Committee has to perform many and various duties. Because of the winter now setting in, it has to provide comfortable lodgings, fuel, clothing and a great deal of food. More than that they are in need of new hospitals in order to check the various kinds of contagious diseases; also they need a number of orphanages for the orphans that keep coming in, and for them the Committee needs schools; and for the grown people, industrial employment."

The following letter was written to Professor Dutton by Dr. Samuel G. Wilson, head of our Commission at Tiflis, dated January 11, 1916:

"We were made glad yesterday by the telegram announcing the grant of \$50,000 additional from the Committee. We immediately proceeded to make new purchases of clothing and are contracting for larger supplies which cannot be purchased ready made. I will return in a few days to Erivan to push the distribution, while Mr. Hill will remain here to urge on the preparations and to forward the goods.

"We have an energetic and sympathetic associate in the Consul, Mr. Smith. Most fortunately the winter is passing mildly in these parts, so that the refugees have not the ordinary severity of the Trans-Caucasus climate to endure. Should the weather turn cold as usual, it will increase the suffering and lead to much sickness.

"We called on Mar Shimun, the Patriarch of the Nestorians, who was here on a visit. For some time he has been a refugee in Salmas, Persia, from Turkey. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the aid and sympathy showed by Americans for his people now, as well as by their schools, hospitals, press and other good things in the past."

An extract from another letter of Dr. Wilson's dated January 14, 1916 says:

"We have been busily engaged making contracts for clothing and bedding since we got the telegram granting the \$50,000. Today I go to Erivan where I will continue distribution. That district has by count 100,716 refugees (Armenians) besides Nestorians and Yezidees. They are listed for bread allowance. We hope to protect from cold and sickness some thousands of them by our funds. Tens

of thousands are without bedding and clothing except rags.

"Mr. Macallum will arrive to-morrow. He will probably follow me to Erivan."

Dr. Wilson writes again, February 4, 1916 from Erivan:

"The work of the Committee is going forward with regularity. The coming of Dr. Macallum and Mr. Gracey made a fine addition to our working force. They are now in the villages in the mountain region of Lake Gokhcha, distributing clothing—which reaches them partly from this point, and partly from Tiflis, where Mr. Hill is purchasing, and Mr. Smith is aiding the work of the Committee in many ways.

"Here the sub-committee have done a good work and I am carrying out their plan on the plain to the west of here. They have been and are preparing garments and bedding here and at Samaghar and we will fill the needs of the refugees in the villages of which they have taken the census. The rest of our goods will be distributed in the Lake Gokhcha region. It is colder and therefore calls for more attention to keep the refugees from acute suffering. Fortunately snow has not yet blocked the roads and distribution is easily possible. The Committee has decided to add soap, tea and sugar also to its articles for distribution. You understand that the bread allowance from the (Russian) Government barely allows enough bread to sustain health and affords nothing else. We are giving something extra to invalids or convalescents. The Government appropriated another million and a half rubles at the beginning of the year for the refugees in the Caucasus. Both Government and Committees have been active lately in distributing bedding and clothing. Soon they will have covered the districts, possibly as soon as we have finished the district assigned to us. Lately a large consignment of clothing, old and new, from America reached Etchmiadzin for distribution. Thus the work though tardily is being accomplished. We are doing something also to meet special cases of need, and setting some artisans to earn their living. The latest statistics show the refugees to be 234,400, of whom 182,800 are in the Caucasus, 12,100 in the conquered districts of Turkey and

39,500 in the conquered parts of (the province of) Azerbaijan, Persia."

Mr. F. Willoughby Smith, American Consul at Tiflis, writes:

"Dr. Wilson is in charge of relief work in the city of Erivan. Dr. Macallum and Mr. Gracey are distributing relief among the villages north of Dilijan and expect to proceed next to the mountain villages of Novo-Bajazat. Their task is a very difficult and trying one. They are being rapidly supplied by shipments collected together by Mr. Hill. Practically all the supplies were bought or contracted for at Tiflis. The original contracts were made by Dr. Wilson and Mr. Hill and are now being followed out by others on the same lines and conditions.

"I have to congratulate you on sending out Dr. Wilson. His services as a buyer, not to mention many other points, have been incalculable. Thanks to him and Mr. Hill purchases have been made in many cases at prices far below those paid by other organizations and the goods obtained were of better quality. You certainly are doing a great work."

The American Committee has also received the following cablegram from Consul Smith, dated March 20th:

"Referring my letter February 23rd." (Not yet received.) "Committee undertaking repatriation refugees. Wilson and Hill leaving for Van. Macallum and Gracey following on completion distribution here. Number refugees returning to their homes increasing. Governor Van urges immediate provision of cattle, grain, implements, to start cultivation, which would provide for coming of returning thousands. Work must be undertaken on large scale. Immediate requirements hundred thousand dollars."

These communications show that the Russian Government is taking the lead in returning great numbers of the Armenians to their homes, many of which are in the formerly Turkish province of Van. Plans are being made to have them raise crops so that they will have food for themselves and for the multitudes who will return in the wake of these agricultural pioneers. But in the months that must elapse before the harvest they will be dependent on continued relief.

II. Conditions in Turkey

Direct news of the Armenian situation in the Turkish Empire is not easy to secure. The following items show that assistance is very much needed and that it is possible to send it today in a way that was impossible last autumn. Four

reports of relief agents working in concentration camps in Turkey in December, 1915 have been printed in a pamphlet issued by our Committee entitled, "The Deportation of the Armenians Described From Day to Day." These de-

pict the sufferings of the exiles from rain and cold, and the terrible mortality from disease. The closing paragraph of the report of December 13th is as follows:

"There is still much work to do on the route to R-S and it seems to me we ought not to give up the work among the distressed as long as anybody of them is left in this place because they would certainly die of starvation."

According to a Washington dispatch printed in the "New York Tribune" of February 19, 1916, the United States Government sent on February 18th a formal protest to Turkey against the continued atrocities on the Armenians. Concerning this protest the Committee has no information other than the newspaper dispatch.

On the first of March information reached this country that the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs has emphatically asserted that "All deportation of the Armenians had ceased and that no more would take place, and that Protestant and Catholic Armenians who have been deported would be allowed to return to their homes." In Constantinople it was reported that some amelioration of the Armenian deportation was evident and that Armenian relief was now being distributed among the Armenians without local interference.

On the 17th of March information reached the State Department from the Chargé d' Affaires at Constantinople relative to additional funds for Armenian relief. A paraphrase of the dispatch is as follows:

"The American Consul at Aleppo reports that half a million Armenian refugees are now in the districts of Damascus, Zor and Aleppo. All of these are within reach of the relief committees at Damascus and Aleppo. All relief committees strongly urge larger remittances. Peet declares that the relief already received has worked wonders, and if properly continued, will help save a Christian nation from extermination. According to his information there are three hundred thousand refugees in Turkey who need help besides the half million referred to. Present sums are inadequate to bring these people through the winter, and one million dollars can be very profitably employed." Mr. Peet is the business agent and treasurer of the four Turkey missions of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with headquarters at Constantinople.

The dispatch shows that the number of survivors is greater than has been

stated in former estimates, which varied between three hundred and five hundred thousand. Now it is cabled that there are five hundred thousand in the districts of Damascus, Zor and Aleppo alone. The total number of Armenian refugees in Turkey who need help is at least 800,000. As there are 800,000 refugees today in Turkey and, as reported above, 182,800 in the Caucasus and 12,100 in districts of Turkey conquered by the Russians, at least one million Armenians are still alive. If the figures in the dispatch do not include the 150,000 Armenians who have not yet been deported from Constantinople and the Armenian population still in Smyrna, we can, perhaps, estimate the number of survivors today at between 1,150,000 and 1,200,000.

At the outbreak of the war the total Armenian population in Turkey was estimated at between 1,600,000 and 2,000,000. Various members of the Committee have assessed the deaths caused by massacre and deportation at from 800,000 to 1,000,000. The latter figure is undoubtedly too large. These estimates may now be revised so that the number of deaths will probably range between 450,000 (or 600,000) and 800,000; depending on which figures one adopts for the Armenian population of Turkey before the war.

Though the situation from the point of view of human life is not quite so black as it seemed, the increased estimates of the number of survivors throw all the greater burden on the facilities for relief.

Ambassador Morgenthau

On the 22nd of February Ambassador Morgenthau arrived at New York on his furlough. He has told to members of the Committee of the great need in Turkey and has authorized the publication of the following letter:

"I again want to urge upon your Committee the great necessity of their securing additional funds to enable us to render further assistance to the Armenian sufferers.

"If you could only bring home to the public the large amount of good done by the expenditure of the funds already sent us and the number of people that we were able to save from dire distress, I feel convinced that there would be a generous and prompt response.

"On behalf of the Armenian sufferers, as well as the Missionaries and Consuls who have distributed the funds, I want to heartily thank the Committee for their untiring efforts and ready compliance with my past requests."

III. News from Persia

Relief work in Persia centers in the cities of Urumia, Salmas and Tabriz. The racial elements who needed help were chiefly Nestorian Christians. Hundreds of years ago the Nestorians lived in Syria and their language is Syriac, but since the 13th century they have lived in several groups near the boundary of Turkey and Persia.

In the mountains of Kurdistan between Van and Urumia there were, perhaps, 50,000 of them. Of these fifteen to twenty thousand survivors, including Mar Shimun, the Nestorian Patriarch, found an asylum on the plains of Salmas, Persia, in October, 1915. Of the perhaps 30,000 more Nestorians living in the valley of the Tigris near Mosul and northwest of that city no tidings have as yet come. The third Nestorian group consisting of about 30,000 of the residents of Urumia in Persia suffered terribly during the Turkish occupation of that city from January to June, 1915, as thrillingly described in "*The War Journal of a Missionary in Persia*," edited by Mary Schaeffer Platt (published by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.; 156 Fifth Ave., New York). When the Russian army returned to Urumia in June, the refugees were allowed to leave the mission premises. Of their subsequent adventures the following report gives a convincing picture:

1. Report of Relief Distribution on Urumia Plain. June 1—December 31, 1916

At the beginning of June, 1915, when the people emerged from our premises emaciated from sickness and malnutrition and crushed by the blow that had fallen upon them, they were confronted by a seemingly hopeless situation. Practically all of their household furnishings and food supplies had been plundered; the same was true of their domestic animals on which they depended in large measure for their subsistence; their houses were without any doors and windows and probably a full third of them had been demolished. They were in terror about going back to their villages; they feared their Moslem neighbors who had despoiled them of their property, outraged their wives and daughters, and killed many of their relatives; they feared too lest the Russian troops might again withdraw and leave them to the mercy of their enemies; and they were anxious lest the missionaries who had sheltered them for the previous months, might forget them when they were out of sight. Every-

thing tended to make them cling to our Mission compounds or their vicinity. To permit them to do this was of course out of the question. Our efforts, however, to scatter them to their village homes formed one of the most pitiful phases of our relief work. The people had to go; but as long as they received their bread from our yards they would not; and so we had no choice but to cut off the food supply, after giving each family sufficient flour to support them a week. At the same time with the help of the newly arrived Russian Consul pressure was brought to bear upon the landlords of the Christian villages to support their tenants until harvest. Some of these could not, because they themselves had been plundered; others would not, in spite of Consular pressure; and others promised to give the needed assistance, but delayed it from day to day with all the ingenuity of excuse for which the Orient is notorious. The result was that our yards were thronged daily with hundreds of people clamoring for food. To give way would have nullified all our efforts to get the people on their own feet; and only when it was absolutely clear that nothing could be gotten from the landlords of any one village did we assume any degree of support for the people of the village. Little by little progress was made, and although the villagers were wretchedly miserable, the approaching harvest made subsistence by their own effort possible, and virtually all food distribution ceased for a period of three months.

There was another form of relief however, that was imperative. In the vast majority of villages there was not a spade to use in repairing their houses, in ridding their vineyards of weeds or in burying their dead, and there was not a scythe or sickle with which to reap their harvest. The best and surest way to help the people was to give them these implements, and so for upward of a month we virtually subsidized all the blacksmiths of the city, in our endeavor to get these instruments in time for the harvest. When we closed this department of our relief work, we had distributed 2,661 scythes and sickles and 1,129 spades at a cost of 18,909.90 krans. (The exchange value of a silver kran is approximately 83½ cents.)

By the beginning of August the situation was considerably more hopeful. The people with Consular help had succeeded in collecting a good deal of their plundered property, including bedding, household utensils and a few cattle; the harvest was good although the acreage was below the average, and the promise of the vineyards was excellent. Then

fell another blow, what seemed an inexplicable Providence. Events in another section of the war, necessitated orders for a sudden withdrawal of the Russian troops, and the evacuation was actually carried out with the exception of a small force which remained with the Consul on the hills outside of the city. With the going of their protectors the whole Christian population of the plain, with the exception of some 200 sick and aged who again took refuge in the Mission yards, fled, some only to the northern edge of the plain, but many to Salmas and Khoi and even Julfa. Fortunately it was summer time; but even so the misery was intense, and cholera and want and hardship claimed many victims in those few weeks. Worse still much that the people had reclaimed of their stolen property and gathered from their fields was taken once more by their Moslem neighbors: and so after nearly a month of miserable hardship and uncertainty, the poor Syrians and Armenians returned to their twice plundered homes. Very little relief, however, was given during the next few weeks; for from the fields and vineyards much still could be secured in the way of food.

At this time we calculated that about 10,000 to 15,000 of the Christian inhabitants would have to be supposed during the winter months, and we were making our plans accordingly, when a new and overwhelming burden descended upon us. For months the Syrians of Kurdistan had been holding their own in their mountain fastnesses, hoping for succor from the Russians. When this failed and their enemies increased on every hand they had to flee, many many perishing in the attempt. Some 30,000 of them arrived at last in Salmas and neighborhood in almost absolute destitution. A few succeeded in bringing a part of their sheep but most came with nothing, half naked and without any means of livelihood. This army of wretchedness was halted by the authorities on the plain of Salmas and on the hills surrounding it, until their location should be determined upon. Mr. McDowell of our Relief Committee who has had years of experience among these people, left at once for Salmas, and grappled with the serious problem of their immediate relief. But for the assistance given by our Committee there hundreds of them would have perished from hunger. As it was cholera, typhoid and pneumonia did their worst among a people wasted by hardship, unprotected from the cold and without shelter. Shortly the streams of suffering humanity began to pour across the pass that separates the Salmas from the Urumia plain, and to scatter themselves in the villages of this section. A few weeks before we had been wondering how the

inhabitants of the plain would find shelter for themselves in their half ruined villages; but from the accompanying statistical report it will be seen that they have made room for nearly 16,000 refugees from other districts. For example the village of Geogtapa has doubled its population having received as many of these guests as it had inhabitants of its own.

About the middle of October we began to take steps in preparation for our winter relief work. The first thing was to buy up all supplies of wheat that we could secure while the price was low—the lowest in years—for the purchasers were few, and the owners anxious to turn their crops into cash before any more untoward events might transpire. The wheat thus secured was stored in different parts of the plain, accessible as distributing centers. The doing of this required quite a force of reliable men who could act as wheat buyers and weighers.

The next step was to get accurate lists of the actually destitute in every village. This was no easy task, for many felt themselves entitled to assistance, who were not wholly destitute, and to discover who were really in want, among the hundreds of poverty stricken plundered inhabitants of each village required both tact and firmness. The task was made doubly hard by the constant stream of new arrivals from Salmas. On the basis of these lists tickets were issued for bedding and for food—the two most crying needs.

For bedding it was decided to issue large wool quilts large enough to cover several persons. These we found could be made for three or three and a half toman (\$3.26) per quilt. Under the efficient direction of Miss Lewis and later of Miss Lamme a quilt factory was started, which in time employed over a hundred needy women in carding wool and sewing the quilts. This factory in its three months existence consumed over 84,000 yards of calico, 35,000 pounds of wool, and some 1,500 pounds of cotton, and expended over 18,000 toman; it taxed the resources of the dry goods merchants to supply our demand and it quite exhausted the wool supplies of the city. Our plan was to give only one quilt to four persons, families of over four to receive two or more according to the number of members, but after the issue of tickets we found that we could not possibly supply the need, and so regretfully we had to limit our giving to one quilt to a family. The inadequacy of this relief was seen when we began to distribute to the families of mountaineers; for with them all the brothers and their wives and children from one family, and it was not uncommon to have families of over 20, one as

high as 35. But in spite of their inadequacy, the 5510 quilts issued have saved the lives of many, for literally thousands were facing the rigors of winter without any bedding whatever.

Our wheat distribution too had to be of the most economical nature. We issued what was supposed to be a two months' supply at one time, giving a Russian pood and a half per capita for this period, that is about 50 pounds. To the widows and orphans and to the new comers from the mountains we gave flour instead of wheat. The actual cost of this assistance in food at current prices being two and a half shahis per day to a person, or about one cent and a quarter. But even with this small gratuity, the total amount given of wheat and flour was 4,000 poods or about 140,000 pounds, costing about the same as the quilts, that is about 18,000 toman.

With these small gifts to individuals amounting in the aggregate to large figures, and with the similar work that has been done in Salmas and Khoi, and even for the district of Albak our funds have been exhausted, and we are waiting now what the generosity of America will do about it. Had it not been for this generosity many would have died of hunger and cold the last two months, for aside from what our Committee has done very little has reached the people from any other source. We are grateful indeed to acknowledge the receipt of considerable sums from his Lordship, the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Syrian refugees from the mountains, but still the largest part has come and must come from America. We shall have to look to our friends in America for their continued aid, if this unfortunate people, the victims of Mohammedan hate, are to be kept this winter and established in their homes once more.

2. Extracts from Letters from Urumia, Persia, Written in January, 1916

"Conditions here are terrible. Moslem villages by the score have been abandoned and the people crowded in the city. Many of the villages have been plundered. The Sunni villages of Dole and Barenduz have been wiped out after massacre and plunder. Naban Sunnis are now being fed by us in the Sunni Mosque. They say the Armenians did it, but an investigation is supposed to be in progress to find out the facts. I am weary of trying to do anything under existing conditions."

"I came to Salmas two months ago in order to help here, especially in quilt making. Mr. McDowell had come several weeks previously and Mr. and Mrs. Pittman came the same time I did. We have given out in Salmas, Khoi and Al-

buk, among refugees nearly four thousand quilts. the last few hundred are being distributed this week. Mr. McDowell gave out wheat for several weeks, but has had to stop for lack of funds. The Russians began distributing funds, apparently not systematically, then stopped. This week I hear they are giving again."

"We are giving a little flannel for underwear, from funds sent to us individually; but all that we have done is but a drop in the ocean, the need is so great. The men are fairly well clothed, but hundreds perhaps thousands of women are almost naked, and undoubtedly many will die from exposure and hunger, even at the best."

"Today is a wet, shivery, snowy day, the first wintry day we've had, and in every one of the score or more of villages round about us are thousands of shivering, naked children huddled close together in dark, airless cellars, in stables, in partly enclosed balcony-like places, grateful for a scrap of dry bread. Hundreds are still lying sick with this same dry bread as their only nourishment, and these miserable holes as their only homes; until we who have seen so much of it all thru this awful year have almost ceased to feel even a pang at the sight of the long rows of graves in the village cemeteries. Personally, I feel it a cause of thanksgiving that there are several thousands less of children than there were last New Year to suffer the miseries of hunger, cold, sickness and exile."

A letter from the Rev. H. A. Muller, dated January 24, 1916, states that over 800 Moslem refugees in the villages were being helped out of relief funds. The number of such refugees was increasing.

The report of the Persian Relief Commission, which represents us in Urumia and elsewhere, gives the following statistics of refugees assisted between November 1 and December 31, 1915. The great majority received both food and bedding.

Refugees from Turkey	11,392
Refugees from Persian Border Districts	4,897
Destitute inhabitants of Urumia Plain	13,723

Total receiving relief in plain of Urumia 29,512

The number of refugees from Turkey, living in other districts, helped by the Persian Commission is approximately as follows:

From Salmas	12,000
From Khoi	3,500
From Albak	6,000
Armenians in Salmas	9,000

Total in other Persian districts 30,500

Grand total of persons assisted in Persia, November-December, 1915. 60,012

IV. Summary of Previous Bulletins

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief has published three bulletins before this one. The first, headed Report of Committee on Armenian Atrocities, consisted of twelve galleys released for publication in the newspapers on the 4th of October, 1915. It announces incredibly severe treatment of the Armenians in Zeitoun and Marash in April, and the widespread deportations in Asia Minor in July, 1915. Other detailed narratives tell of massacres on an extensive scale and describe the heart-breaking fate of the women and children who were forced to travel on foot from their highland homes to the torrid districts of Mesopotamia. Other letters tell of the sufferings of exiles through insufficient food and clothing and call for relief on an unprecedented scale.

The second bulletin, entitled "Latest

News" was issued January 26, 1916, deals with the relief work as reported chiefly by cables and letters from Persia and the Caucasus. There is appended a long and significant account of the exile of the Armenian inhabitants of an unnamed Turkish town. The third bulletin, dated February 21, 1916, continues the news of relief.

The Committee has also other free literature for distribution including circulars, posters and a pamphlet entitled, "The Deportation of the Armenians Described from Day to Day by a Kind Woman, Somewhere in Turkey."

There is in preparation a comprehensive booklet describing the origin and course of the massacres and deportation of 1915, and giving a summary of the relief work.

V. Financial Statement

Ambassador Morgenthau estimates the sum necessary to be raised in America for the relief and rehabilitation of the Armenians at five million dollars. As is evident from the financial statement submitted herewith, it is necessary to make renewed and persistent effort to save from extinction the survivors of the deportation.

TREASURER'S REPORT, MARCH 20, 1916

Total receipts from Subscriptions \$433,141.35

Relief rendered to date:

Constantinople	\$190,000
Constantinople (Armenian Patriarch)	10,000
Cairo	6,374
Tiflis	138,200
Tiflis Medical Supplies	825
Tiflis Medical Supplies	922.96
Persia	75,000
Special Relief	210
	<hr/> 421,531.96

Balance to be appropriated \$ 11,609.39

The expenses of the campaign in America are not included in the above summary, as they are borne by members of the American Committee, so that one hundred cents of every dollar contributed by the public may be transferred by cable.

If you want to secure speakers or hints on organizing campaigns write to Walter H. Mallory, Field Secretary, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York. He can also supply free literature including comprehensive pamphlets, news bulletins, circulars and posters. Write to him today!

Everybody must help. All contributions should be sent to Charles R. Crane, Treasurer, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

What your gifts will do :

In Persia—\$5.00 will keep 400 people alive a day or 13 people a month.

In Turkey—\$5.00 will keep 83 people alive a day or 3 people a month.

HOW MANY LIVES ARE YOU WILLING TO SAVE?



DEPORTATION AND RELIEF 1915-1916.

The arrows show the direction of deportation. The chief centers of relief work are underlined.